

## CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for enhancing the generation of hydroxyl radicals ( $\text{OH}^*$ ), at ambient temperature, in a liquid aqueous biocidal mixtures containing hydrogen peroxide ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ), wherein the hydrogen peroxide has an initial concentration of from 2 to 250 ppm, said method comprising the following steps
  - i) supplying oxygen ( $\text{O}_2$ ) to said mixture;
  - ii) supplying suspended magnesium oxide to said mixture ~~as an alkaline-earth metal catalyst wherein the magnesium oxide ( $\text{MgO}$ ) is supplied to the mixture~~ to a concentration of from 2 ppm to 250 ppm; ~~and~~  
iii) adjusting the pH of said mixture to a value of from 7.2 to 9.7;
  - ~~iii~~ iv) irradiating said mixture with UV light; ~~thereby providing a synergic combination of UV,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_2$ , and  $\text{MgO}$  in suspension; and~~
  - ~~iv~~ v) mixing said mixture;

and wherein the generated hydroxyl radicals are accumulated in said mixture to reach a desired amount, said the amount to be being quantified by reacting said radicals with salicylic acid.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the oxygen is supplied by injecting air or oxygen into the mixture.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the oxygen is supplied to saturation.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said UV light has a wavelength of from 190 to 390 nm.

7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said initial concentration of hydrogen peroxide is from 10 to 50 ppm, and said initial concentration of magnesium oxide is from 10 to 50 ppm.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said mixing is carried out for a period of time sufficient to generate the desired amount of hydroxyl radicals.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said desired amount of hydroxyl radicals is an amount sufficient to reach a required biocidal effect in the mixture.
13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said period lasts from 3 seconds to 5 hours.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said period lasts from 30 second to 100 minutes.
15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said period lasts more than 5 hours.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said desired amount of hydroxyl radicals is a predetermined quantity.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)